

Appl. No. 09/770,528
Amdt. dated August 18, 2006
Reply to Office action of April 20, 2006

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in our amendments or responses to Office actions.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (previously amended): A binding composition comprising an antigen binding site from an antibody, which specifically binds to a mature polypeptide comprising at least 8 contiguous amino acid residues from SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 8 (previously amended): The binding compound of Claim 7, wherein said binding compound is an Fv, Fab, or Fab2 fragment.

Claim 9 (previously amended): A kit comprising said binding compound of Claim 7, and:

- a) a compartment comprising said binding compound; and/or
- b) instructions for use or disposal of reagents in said kit.

Claim 10 (previously amended) A composition comprising:

- a) a sterile binding compound of Claim 7, or
- b) said binding compound of Claim 7 and a carrier, wherein said carrier is:
 - i) an aqueous compound, including water, saline, and/or buffer; and/or
 - ii) formulated for oral, rectal, nasal, topical, or parenteral administration.

Claim 20 (previously amended) A method of:

A) making an antiserum comprising an antibody of Claim 7, comprising immunizing a mammal with an immunogenic amount of a peptide comprising a 12 consecutive amino acid segment of SEQ ID NO: 2; thereby causing said antiserum to be produced; or

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B) producing an antigen:antibody complex, comprising contacting a rodent IL-18 protein with a binding compound of Claim 7; thereby allowing said complex to form.

Claim 21 (previously added): The binding compound of Claim 7, wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

Claim 22 (previously added): The binding compound of Claim 7, wherein said antibody is detectably labeled.

Claim 23 (previously added): the binding compound of Claim 7, wherein said at least 8 contiguous amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO: 2 is selected from the group consisting of residues 8-24; 27-48; 56-73; 77-106; 108-125; 130-156; and 74-98.

Claim 24 (previously added): The binding compound of claim 7, wherein said polypeptide comprising at least 12 contiguous amino acid residues from SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (new): The binding compound of Claim 24, wherein said 12 contiguous amino acid segment is selected from:

- a) residues 9-25 of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- b) residues 43-63 of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- c) residues 56-68 of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- d) residues 77-89 of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- e) residues 109-121 of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- f) residues 121-132 of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- g) residues 135-147 of SEQ ID NO: 2.